

ABSTRACT

A process for the preparation of amorphous atorvastatin calcium and hydrates thereof,

5 which comprises:

- (a) hydrolysis of the precursor lactone using sodium hydroxide to form atorvastatin sodium salt solution;
- (b) addition of the atorvastatin sodium salt solution to a calcium chloride or calcium acetate solution in the absence or presence of seeds of amorphous atorvastatin calcium; and
- (c) isolation of the resultant amorphous atorvastatin calcium salt by filtration and drying.